

Accomplishments

In the 110th Congress, 1st Session (2007):

On February 15, 2007 DeFazio reintroduced H.R. 1081, the "Insurance Industry Competition Act." DeFazio's bill would repeal the antitrust exemption established by the McCarran-Ferguson Act and give the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission the authority to apply U.S. antitrust laws and investigate anticompetitive behavior by insurance companies. H.R. 1081 would provide a federal backstop to anticompetitive behavior that is not being regulated by state insurance commissioners. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by the top Democrat and Republican on the Judiciary Committee, Senators Patrick Leahy and Arlen Specter.

DeFazio reintroduced legislation on March 13, 2007 to respond to record high gas prices. The bill, H.R. 1500, the Gasoline Price Stabilization Act would, among other things: Impose a windfall profits tax on oil companies to decrease the incentive to gouge consumers; urge the President to file a trade complaint with the WTO against OPEC for illegally colluding to raise oil prices, which violates global trade rules; put a moratorium on oil company mergers (the non-partisan General Accounting Office reported 2,600 mergers in the U.S. petroleum industry since the mid-1990s - by one measure, four companies control 74 percent of the gasoline market in Oregon); create a commission to investigate the impact mergers are having on prices and to make recommendations to restore competition in the petroleum industry; tax credits for consumers who purchase highly fuel efficient vehicles, and mandate increased fuel efficiency standards for cars and trucks (at least 37 miles per gallon after 2017, 40 mpg by 2022).

On May 23, 2007, DeFazio voted in favor of H.R. 1252, the Federal Price Gouging Prevention Act, legislation to prohibit price gouging for gasoline at the wholesale or retail level. DeFazio was an original cosponsor of H.R. 1252. The bill was approved 284-141. Under the bill, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) can seek civil penalties of up to three times the amount of profits or \$3 million for charging unconscionable prices, and up to \$1 million for providing false information to federal agencies. The bill prioritizes enforcement actions against large oil companies with annual sales of \$500 million or more. This legislation is necessary because currently, gouging is only illegal if there's collusion between two or more entities, which is notoriously hard to prove. This legislation was approved 284-141.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 594, which would subject all oil trading to the same regulation as other commodities to ensure markets aren't manipulated by speculators trading oil behind closed doors.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2283, legislation to ban zone pricing of gasoline at the retail level. Zone pricing is the practice by which oil companies charge different wholesale prices for the same brand and grade of gasoline in multiple zones across the state, which can lead to large disparities in prices between neighborhoods and cities in the same area.
- On October 4, 2007, DeFazio wrote to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin requesting an investigation of Verizon's refusal (since reversed) to allow NARAL Pro-Choice America from sending text messages to their members and AT&T's DSL policy that says the company reserves the right to terminate service if a customer takes action that "tends to damage the name or reputation of AT&T, or its parents, affiliates and subsidiaries." DeFazio is concerned about the free speech implications of these two cases.
- Continuing his leadership role in organic food issues, DeFazio asked the Department of Agriculture to give the public more time to consider the Department's proposal to amend the National List of allowed and prohibited substances. Years ago, DeFazio offered an amendment to the 1990 Farm Bill that required the United States Department of Agriculture to draft organic labeling standards, which is now known as the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990. Although originally opposed by many within the Department and agricultural sector, this law has been a huge success in promoting safe and healthy food production and consumption. The Department proposed to add 38 new substances to the National List of substances that could be labeled as "organic," giving the public only seven days to respond to the proposal. The Department acquiesced to DeFazio's request, and has yet to make a final decision on the proposal.
- In July 2007 DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 3046, the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act." This bill protects Americans by enforcing specific restrictions on the sale and display of social security numbers to the general public by the federal government. This includes prohibiting the display of SSN on payments issued by the federal government or on federal identification and sets penalties for Social Security Administration employees who knowingly and fraudulently issue Social Security cards or SSNs.
- In September 2007 DeFazio joined a number of his colleagues a letter to the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services requesting increased funding to

the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an independent agency that reviews the safety of more than 15,000 consumer products each year. Consistent under-funding for this agency has led to the highest rate of consumer product recalls in U.S. history.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2108, legislation to set certification and inspection requirements for foreign governments and foreign firms seeking to import goods (food or otherwise) into the U.S. It would also enhance the FDA's recall authority.
- DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 3691, legislation requiring that children's products undergo independent third-party testing; expand civil and criminal penalties; ban lead in children's products; enhance CPSC recall and inspection authority; and increase funding for the CPSC.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3077, legislation to prohibit the importation into the United States of any seafood or seafood product capable of use as human food from any foreign country unless: (1) the country applies for, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services issues, a certification finding that the country maintains seafood safety and inspection programs that use reliable analytical methods and that are at least as protective of human health as U.S. programs; and (2) such certification remains in effect. Directs the Secretary to: (1) periodically review such certifications; (2) revoke such certifications if the country involved is not maintaining seafood safety programs that meet the standards described in this Act; and (3) inspect individual establishments to ensure that the seafood safety programs of the foreign country involved meet such standards.
- As during prior sessions of Congress, DeFazio is a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 695, to prevent the privatization of tax collection. DeFazio is concerned that outsourcing tax collection to private companies costs more than having the IRS do it and threatens the privacy and financial information of millions of Americans. Similar legislation, H.R. 3056, was approved by the House on October 10, 2007.
- DeFazio continues to help lead the opposition to two provisions in the President's budget that would cause a drastic increase in electricity rates in the Northwest. DeFazio coordinated a March 3, 2007, letter to the House Budget Committee in opposition to the two budget provisions. The letter was signed by 15 Republican and Democratic House members from the four Northwest states. DeFazio also drafted a letter to the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee asking that a provision be included blocking Bonneville from

pursuing the budget proposals. The letter was sent on May 9, 2007. To date, Bonneville has not moved forward with the proposals.

- In September 2007 DeFazio voted against the Patent Reform Act of 2007. This bill would overhaul the current U.S. patent structure by replacing the current "first-to-invent" system with a "first-to-file" system. The change, intended to bring about greater clarity and universality to the patent system, would actually flood patent offices with hastily-filed, incomplete applications creating, what many opponents fear, a more serious litigation crisis than exists today. The proposed legislation would also expose patent holders to further harassment from their competitors by implementing a post-grant review process, and encourage large companies to infringe on patented intellectual property rights by limiting damages that can be collected by patent holders in infringement cases. The bill was passed by the House.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of the Arbitration Fairness Act of 2007, legislation that would protect American consumers by invalidating pre-dispute arbitration clauses when the matter concerns employment, consumer, or franchise disputes. Arbitration rules often deprive consumers of their right to take a dispute to court if they feel they have been cheated or to have their case heard before an impartial judge. Arbitration is rarely partial, as a new study published by Public Citizen reports consumers win arbitration cases only 4% of the time.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 962, legislation to combat the growing problem of anti-biotic immunity in humans. This legislation would restrict the non-health care related use of antibiotics in animals destined for human food.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 992, legislation requiring that foods made from cloned animals be labeled as such.

- DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 1396, legislation that prohibits foods derived from cloned animals from being labeled organic.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2694, bipartisan legislation requiring that vehicle manufacturers disclose to the vehicle owner or to a repair facility of the motor vehicle owner's choosing the information necessary to diagnose, service, or repair the vehicle. The legislation is intended to help independent auto service shops to more efficiently help consumers.

- DeFazio is a leading advocate in favor of protecting private property rights, which has become particularly important in light of the Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. New London*, which allowed governments to take private property in order to benefit another private party. DeFazio is again a cosponsor of H.R. 926, legislation to protect private property by limiting federal government assistance for projects that used eminent domain to seize private property for the benefit of other private parties. DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3053, which provides a similar protection for private property owners.

In the 109th Congress (2005-2006):

- DeFazio reintroduced legislation to respond to record high gas prices. The bill, H.R. 3544, the Gasoline Price Stabilization Act would, among other things: Impose a windfall profits tax on oil companies to decrease the incentive to gouge consumers; authorize the President to stabilize oil and gas prices by imposing price caps or other mechanisms in response to market manipulation; urge the President to file a trade complaint with the WTO against OPEC for illegally colluding to raise oil prices, which violates global trade rules; put a moratorium on oil company mergers (the non-partisan General Accounting Office reported 2,600 mergers in the U.S. petroleum industry since the mid-1990s - by one measure, four companies control 74 percent of the gasoline market in Oregon); create a commission to investigate the impact mergers are having on prices and to make recommendations to restore competition in the petroleum industry; and mandate increased fuel efficiency standards for cars (at least 45 miles per gallon after 2014) and trucks (at least 34 mpg by 2014).

DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 3936, legislation to make it a federal crime to gouge consumers during emergencies. Such an anti-price gouging law is necessary because currently, gouging is only against the law if one company colludes with another to raise prices, which is notoriously hard to prove. If the companies acted independently of each other, there would be no crime. H.R. 3936 would close that loophole. The House considered similar legislation, H.R. 5253 on May 3, 2006. The bill was approved 389-34. The Senate has not acted on the bill.

And, he is a cosponsor of H.R. 3780. This legislation would end the price discrimination that takes place at the terminal facility (where gasoline is loaded on tanker trucks) and would require

oil companies to disclose their wholesale pricing practices to the U.S. Department of Energy. This will help shed light on the various schemes that can influence the price we pay at the pump.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 5248, which would subject all oil trading to the same regulation as other commodities to ensure markets aren't manipulated by speculators trading oil behind closed doors.

And, DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2070, stand-alone legislation that includes the windfall profits tax provisions incorporated into DeFazio's own bill. DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 4263, windfall profits legislation that would direct the revenue to low-income heating assistance programs.

Finally, DeFazio is a cosponsor of bipartisan legislation, H.R. 4409, to require a reduction in U.S. oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels a day within 10 years. This would be accomplished by expanding federal research into alternative fuels, providing incentives for American automakers to speed commercialization of more efficient and alternative fuel vehicles, providing farmers with support to grow crops for use as fuel, increasing support for public transit, increasing the number of flexible fuel vehicles on the road, and increasing tax incentives for consumers who purchase fuel efficient vehicles.

- DeFazio joined dozens of colleagues in writing to Speaker Hastert on November 8, 2005, asking that he call oil company executives before Congress to testify on record high gas prices. The Senate held a hearing with oil company executives on November 9, 2005.

- DeFazio wrote to Attorney General Gonzales and FTC Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras on September 7, 2005, urging an investigation into gas price spikes in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, including in regions of the country like the Northwest that are not a part of the distribution system along the Gulf Coast.

- DeFazio also joined several colleagues in writing to the Chairwoman of the FTC, Deborah Platt Majoras, on October 3, 2005, asking that the FTC investigate the rising cost of credit card fees associated with gasoline purchases as a contributing factor to record high gas prices.

- DeFazio joined several colleagues in writing to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Agriculture Committee on September 16, 2005, urging an investigation into the role that manipulation by speculators in commodities markets is playing in record high gas prices.
- DeFazio joined a bipartisan group of members in writing to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on May 26, 2005, urging that the GAO investigate the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's ability to regulate commodities markets and the impact those markets might be having on record high gas prices.
- DeFazio is a leading advocate in favor of protecting private property rights, which has become particularly important in light of the Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. New London*, which allowed governments to take private property in order to benefit another private party. DeFazio cosponsored three different bills to protect private property by limiting federal government assistance for projects that used eminent domain to seize private property for the benefit of other private parties. The three bipartisan bills were H.R. 3135, H.R. 3405, and H.R. 4128. H.R. 4128 was approved by the House on November 3, 2005 by a vote of 376-38. The Senate has not acted on the measure.
- DeFazio wrote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on August 17, 2006, expressing concerns about the possibility that private land would be seized in order to construct the pipeline for the proposed LNG terminal in Coos Bay. DeFazio urged FERC to "require rerouting of the Pacific connector pipeline in a way that avoids private property and eminent domain seizures, and instead uses existing transmission rights of way on public lands." DeFazio also wrote that he is "opposed to using eminent domain to seize private property to facilitate construction of the pipeline."
- DeFazio helped lead the opposition to two provisions in the President's budget that would cause a drastic increase in electricity rates in the Northwest. DeFazio coordinated a February 10, 2005, letter to the Office of Management and Budget at the White House in opposition to the two budget provisions. The letter was signed by all Republican and Democratic House members from the four Northwest states. When OMB ignored the concerns of the Northwest members and sent up proposed legislation to Congress on one of the provisions, DeFazio coordinated a June 29, 2005, letter to House Resources Committee Chairman Richard Pombo in opposition to the OMB proposal. The Resources Committee never took up the OMB proposal. DeFazio joined with the Northwest Energy Caucus and the Northwest Senate delegation in

successfully inserting a provision in H.R. 4939, the fiscal year 2006 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act that blocks the OMB rate increase proposal until April 2007. H.R. 4939 was signed into law on June 13, 2006.

- On July 20, 2005, DeFazio joined other Republicans and Democrats in the Northwest in writing to the House and Senate energy committees in support of several provisions in both the House and Senate versions of H.R. 6, the comprehensive energy legislation, that would protect Northwest electricity consumers. The provisions endorsed by DeFazio and other Northwest members were included in the final version of H.R. 6, which was signed into law on August 8, 2005.
- On November 4, 2005, DeFazio wrote to Steve Wright regarding BPA's 2007-2009 rate proposal. DeFazio urged Wright to keep rates as low as possible, particularly in light of the fact that families and businesses in the Northwest continue to struggle due to the 40-50 percent rate increases that happened in the wake of the 2001 Western electricity crisis.
- DeFazio is the author of H.R. 4358, the Influenza Vaccine Emergency Act. In response to persistent flu vaccine shortages over the last several winters, and in light of a possible avian flu epidemic, DeFazio reintroduced legislation to strengthen the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act to respond to a health emergency. In the case of a flu vaccine shortage or flu epidemic, the Secretary of HHS could declare a national health emergency. If a manufacturer or distributor was not in compliance with government distribution guidelines, under a national health emergency, the Secretary would have the authority to seize vaccine supplies from manufacturers and distributors, that have been paid for by federal, state, and local government entities, and distribute the vaccine.
- In an effort to alleviate identity theft, DeFazio is a cosponsor of two bills to crack down on inadequate protection of the personal information of consumers and employees by businesses and data brokers. H.R. 1069, the Notification of Risk to Personal Data Act, establishes notification procedures governing any agency, or person engaged in interstate commerce, that owns or licenses electronic data containing personal information, following the discovery of a breach of security of the system containing such data. Requires businesses to notify: (1) each affected customer; (2) each pertinent consumer reporting agency; (3) the information clearinghouse established by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) under this Act; and (4) appropriate law enforcement agencies. The second bill, H.R. 1080, the Information Protection and Security Act, requires the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations governing the conduct of information brokers and the protection of personally identifiable information held by

such brokers. States that such regulations shall include rules: (1) requiring procedures for maximum data accuracy, confidentiality, user authentication and tracking, the prevention and detection of illegal or unauthorized activity, and mitigation of potential harm to individuals; (2) allowing individuals to obtain disclosure of such information pertaining to them held by an information broker, to be informed of each entity that procured such information, and to request and receive prompt correction of errors; and (3) prohibiting brokers from engaging in activity that fails to comply with FTC regulations. It also allows states and individuals to sue over breaches of privacy by data brokers.

- In response to the theft of a VA laptop that contained personal information on 26 million veterans, DeFazio cosponsored H.R. 5455, the Veterans Identity Protection Act, would provide three years of credit protection, with one year of free credit monitoring followed by free credit reports once a year for two years. DeFazio also cosponsor of H.R. 5588, the Comprehensive Veterans' Data Protection and Identity Theft Prevention Act. Besides the credit monitoring and credit report protections offered in H.R. 5455, this legislation requires notification to victims in the event of a data breach, allows veterans to freeze their credit for at least one year to limit the ability of anyone to open new lines of credit, and allows veterans to place a fraud alert in their credit record to notify credit agencies that the individual has personal information that has been compromised and could be subject to identity theft.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1139, a bipartisan bill to prohibit cell phone providers from including customer's names and numbers in a directory without getting the customers explicit consent first.

- DeFazio has long been a critic of the increasing corporate concentration of media ownership in radio, television and newspapers. DeFazio voted against the 1996 Telecommunications Act, which set the stage for a wave of mammoth mergers. DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 3302, the Media Ownership Reform Act of 2005. This legislation will restore fairness in broadcasting, reduce media concentration, ensure that broadcasters meet their public interest requirements, and promote diversity, localism, and competition in American media.

- DeFazio voted against the so-called Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement (COPE) Act of 2006, H.R. 5252, passed by a vote of 321 to 101 on June 9, 2006. An amendment offered by Representative Ed Markey, which would have ensured "net neutrality" in the bill, failed. DeFazio voted for the Markey amendment. Net neutrality is the principle that ensures small and independent web sites open just as easily on people's computers as sites run by large corporations do. As a result of lobbying efforts by large telecom

firms, COPE includes provisions that would require community groups, small businesses and everyday people to pay fees to ensure their web sites open as quickly as those run by large firms. In addition, the bill would grant telecom companies a national franchise, which would mean companies would not be required to provide cable TV service in rural areas or extend service beyond the most profitable areas in cities. Such a national franchise would also remove the little oversight that local governments have over cable service providers and remove their authority over rights of way.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2327, legislation to impose a six-month moratorium on terminations of certain pension plans in cases in which reorganization of contributing sponsors is sought in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 839, the Restore Scientific Integrity to Federal Research and Policymaking Act. This legislation prohibits a federal employee from engaging in: (1) tampering with the conduct of federally funded scientific research or analysis; (2) censorship of findings of such research or analysis; or (3) directing the dissemination of scientific information known by the directing employee to be false or misleading.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 373, the Federal Propaganda Prohibition Act. This legislation prohibits an officer or employee of the U.S. Government from making or authorizing an expenditure or obligation of funds for publicity or propaganda within the United States unless authorized by law and requires each advertisement or other communication paid for by an Executive agency to include a prominent notice that the advertisement or other communication is paid for by that agency.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1145, bipartisan legislation requiring the FTC to study the video and computer game rating system of the Entertainment Software Rating Board that was adopted by the video game industry to determine if that system: (1) accurately characterizes video game content; or (2) constitutes an unfair or deceptive act or practice affecting parents and other consumers in making purchasing decisions.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2048, bipartisan legislation requiring that vehicle manufacturers disclose to the vehicle owner or to a repair facility of the motor vehicle owner's choosing the information necessary to diagnose, service, or repair the vehicle. The legislation is intended to help independent auto service shops to more efficiently help consumers.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1861, legislation requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue: (1) consumer product safety standards applicable to any furniture or electronic appliance that the Commission determines poses a substantial safety hazard due to tipping because of its design, height, weight, stability, or other features; (2) regulations requiring warning labels on the packaging of such items and on the packaging of furniture with drawers that pose a danger to children due to tipping.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2643, legislation protecting consumers who deposit a check from someone else that bounces from being charged fees by their own bank.
- DeFazio cosponsored H.J.Res. 23, legislation to block a very weak Department of Agriculture regulation to try to prevent mad cow disease in humans in the U.S. The legislation specifically disapproves of the Bush administration's decision to reopen the Canadian border to beef imports in the wake of the Government Accountability Office's report stating the oversight of BSE testing in Canada is inadequate.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2793, bipartisan legislation prohibiting insurers offering group health plans from denying benefits or coverage otherwise provided for under the plan for an injury solely because the injury was sustained while using a legal recreational vehicle.

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004):

- DeFazio has taken the lead in Congress to make schools safer by working with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and safety glass advocates to effectively reverse a 1977 ruling on wired glass. Wired glass is a fire-rated glass that is installed in fire doors and windows in thousands of schools, dormitories, community centers, and other public buildings throughout the United States. Each year an estimated 2,500 American children and young adults suffer severe, often debilitating injuries after accidentally impacting wired glass. Unfortunately, wired glass is misleadingly sold in the US as both fire-rated and impact-resistant. However, even the CPSC has determined that wired glass can only withstand the impact from,

at most, a five-year-old child. DeFazio's efforts contributed to a CPSC decision to prohibit this hazardous glass in all new construction in areas where children and youths are active.

- In response to record gas price spikes in Oregon, DeFazio introduced H.R. 1221, the Gasoline Price Stabilization Act, on March 12, 2003. The DeFazio legislation authorizing the President to stabilize oil and gas prices by imposing price caps or other control mechanisms; authorizes the President to tap the strategic petroleum reserve (SPR), a federal reserve of 700 million barrels of oil, to ease regional and state shortages or price increases; allows the President to release oil from the SPR to combat anti-competitive practices by foreign and domestic producers, refiners, and marketers of petroleum products; directs the Secretary of Energy to establish minimum inventory levels for producers, refiners, and marketers of crude oil, which would be similar to the requirement that public utility commissions place on electric utilities to have enough reserve capacity to keep the lights on in the event of a spike in demand; and reinstates the ban on exporting oil from Alaska.
- DeFazio also reintroduced H.Con.Res. 290, legislation that urges the President to file a complaint at the World Trade Organization against OPEC, and other large oil producing nations that cooperate with OPEC, for violating trade rules that prohibit quantitative limitations on the import of export of resources or products. OPEC production quotas clearly violate this trade rule. DeFazio joined Senator Frank Lautenberg in offering even tougher legislation, H.R. 4780, that would require the administration to file a WTO case against OPEC for violating free trade rules.
- DeFazio continued his effort to limit the recreational fee program, which allows agencies like the Park Service and the Forest Service to charge taxpayers for using even undeveloped trails on public lands. DeFazio offered an amendment to H.R. 2691, the Fiscal Year 2004 Department of Interior Appropriations Act, to limit the ability to impose these fees to the National Park Service. The DeFazio amendment was defeated 184-241 on July 17, 2003.
- Cosponsor of several bills to address the high cost of prescription drugs and provide Medicare coverage of prescription drugs. The bills would require companies to offer seniors on Medicare the same prices they offer their most-favored customers, enable Americans to take advantage of lower costs of drugs manufactured to FDA specifications in other countries by allowing reimportation, and requiring drugs developed with taxpayer funds be provided at a reasonable price.

- DeFazio has been a long time critic of corporate consolidation of the media. He is a cosponsor of a variety of bills to fight consolidation, and protect competition, localism and diversity in media. He was also an opponent of the recent FCC rules to allow further consolidation. The bills he is a cosponsor of include H.R. 218, H.R. 2462, H.R. 2502, H.J.Res. 218.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of legislation, H.R. 3558, to prohibit cell phone companies from including a customer's phone number in a nationwide directory unless the consumer opts in to being included.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2546, legislation that would allow consumers to obtain one free credit report every year in an effort to crack down on identity theft.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1933, legislation to crack down on e-mail spam. Similar legislation, S.877, which DeFazio voted for, was passed by the Congress and signed into law in December 2003.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 414, the Life Insurance Employee Notification Act, which requires employers to notify employees if they take out a life insurance plan on the employee. This became an issue during the wave of corporate scandals when it was discovered companies were taking out life insurance policies on low-paid, rank-and-file workers in which the company, not the employee's family, would benefit.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002):

- Through his position on the Aviation Subcommittee, DeFazio renewed his push for passenger rights. He introduced, H.R. 332, the Aviation Consumer Right to Know Act, which would (1) require airlines to disclose all available fares and allow consumers to purchase any published fare from either the airline or a ticket agent (2) allow consumers to purchase back-to-back and hidden city tickets, (3) require airlines to disclose the number of seats

available for frequent flyer travelers, (4) require airlines to disclose the reasons for a flight delay or cancellation (5) require airlines to disclose how long a plane is expected to be detained on the runway prior to departure, (6) require airlines to notify passengers of any cabin insecticide treatments, and (7) clarify that consumers may sue airlines in state court.

- During the floor debate on H.R. 2299, the fiscal year 2002 Transportation Appropriations bill, DeFazio successfully offered an amendment to provide \$720,000 to establish a toll-free airline consumer hotline at the Department of Transportation. DOT currently compiles statistics and provides a report on customer complaints, but few airline passengers know how to contact the office to get help. This phone line will provide the traveling public and the airlines with a better measure of how well the airlines are providing customer service. H.R. 2590 was signed into law on December 18, 2001.

- DeFazio continued his active opposition to massive airline mergers that stifle competition, including the merger between United and U.S. Airways. DeFazio introduced, along with Representative Slaughter, H.R. 761, the Airline Merger Moratorium Act, legislation mandating a one-year moratorium on airline mergers. DeFazio testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee about his concerns with the United/U.S. Airways merger. Pressure from DeFazio and other Members of Congress, as well as the Department of Justice, led the two airlines to abandon their proposed merger in July 2001.

- Authored legislation, H.R. 3952, along with Senator Ron Wyden to create a federal energy consumer advocate (the "Office of Consumer Advocacy") within the Department of Justice. The DeFazio-Wyden legislation was incorporated as Section 253 of the Senate's comprehensive energy legislation. The legislation was endorsed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, the American Association of Retired Persons, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, and Consumers Union.

- DeFazio joined Representative Walden (R-OR) in introducing legislation, H.R. 4826 and H.R. 4827, to combat so-called "wash trades." Wash trading involves selling energy at a fixed amount and cost and simultaneously purchasing the energy back at the same volume and price. This was one of the strategies exploited by Enron and others to manipulate electricity markets. The trading artificially boosts sales volumes by selling energy and simultaneously buying back the same amount of energy at the same price.

- Introduced legislation, H.R. 264, to repeal electricity deregulation and return the U.S. to

the system that served us well for 60-plus years: a mix of public and private utilities regulated in the public interest by a mix of state and federal authorities.

- Reintroduced a legislative package intended to stop OPEC from manipulating world oil markets. H.Res. 27 urges the President to file a complaint at the World Trade Organization against OPEC, and other large oil producing nations that cooperate with OPEC, for violating trade rules that prohibit quantitative limitations on the import of export of resources or products.
- Successfully pressured the Bush Administration to release critical energy assistance through the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). Beginning in November 2001, DeFazio wrote a series of letters pointing out the dire situation Oregon families faced due to skyrocketing electricity bills. The letters requested that the Administration release \$600 million in emergency LIHEAP money appropriated by Congress in 2001-2002, but not spent by the President. The Administration finally released a portion of this money in mid-August 2002. Oregon received \$1.6 million.
- Cosponsor of H.R. 1967, the Gas Price Spike Act of 2001, which imposes a windfall profits tax on oil companies so they aren't rewarded for gouging consumers.
- Cosponsored legislation, H.R. 1468, to re-impose cost-based rates in the Western United States in response to the California deregulation fiasco.
- Author of bipartisan legislation, H.R. 57, to establish a commission to study and make recommendations with respect to the federal electoral process.
- Original cosponsor of H.R. 2831, the ACable TV Consumers Protection Act, legislation to re-regulate cable rates and impose a one-year freeze on rates.
- DeFazio continued to be a leader on urging caution on genetically-modified organisms. He drafted an amendment to the FY02 Agriculture Appropriations Bill to block the Food and Drug Administration from approving genetically engineered fish until an agency with appropriate biological expertise could study the potential environmental impacts. He also joined

Representative Kucinich (D-OH) in introducing a series of GMO reform bills, including legislation to require labeling of GM foods, require safety testing, and to protect farmers from the ill-effects of GM seeds.

In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)

- Led effort urging USDA to implement new national standards for organic food labeling. DeFazio was author of the legislation, approved in 1990, directing USDA to formulate national organic standard. An initial proposed regulation, released in 1997, was widely criticized. DeFazio led the successful effort to convince the USDA to redraft its proposal. The final organic regulation, which was supported by DeFazio and the organic industry, was published in December 2000.
- Author of H.R.908, the "Aviation Consumer Right To Know Act," legislation to improve consumers' access to information about delays, cancellations, frequent flyer miles, and other policies of the airline industry. The legislation was the subject of two House Aviation Subcommittee hearings in March of 1999. DeFazio also authored legislation, H.R.2051, to require the Secretary of Transportation to investigate unreasonably high air fares or inadequate air carrier competition at airports at the request of the community served by that airport.
- Author of H.R.1312, a bill to freeze cable rates and require an FCC investigation of cable rate increases. DeFazio introduced identical legislation in the 105th Congress prompting the introduction of several bills and hearings in the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Senate Commerce Committee.
- Author of H.R.2052, legislation giving the State of Oregon a formal role in cleanup decisions at Hanford. Similar legislation was included in Superfund reform legislation, H.R.1300, and approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on August 5, 1999.
- Received the National Nutritional Foods Association 1999 Congressional Champion

Award.

In the 105th Congress (1997-1998)

- Successfully led a bi-partisan coalition of 50 Members of Congress urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture to redraft regulations to implement organic labeling requirements. The Department rewrote the proposal in response to congressional and public pressure.
 - Author of H.R.2120, the "Telephone Consumer Slamming Prevention Act," a bill to prevent long distance phone companies from switching a consumer's long distance provider without written consent from the consumer. The bill was endorsed by the Oregon PCU, AARP, and the Consumer Federation of America, among others. Provisions in his bill were included in legislation approved by the House of Representatives on October 12, 1998.
 - Led successful effort to end the use of compound 1080 in livestock protection collars in Oregon. Compound 1080 is an extremely dangerous poison with no known antidote. With urging from DeFazio, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber ended a proposed pilot program to use the compound as a predator control measure in Curry County, Oregon.
 - Author of H.R.2818, a bill to repeal the recreation fee program for access to public lands maintained by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. The bill replaces the fee demonstration program with a royalty on hard rock mining. DeFazio also offered amendments on the House floor to fiscal year 1999 and fiscal year 2000 Interior Appropriations bills to eliminate the program. These amendments, however, were not approved. DeFazio continues to offer the amendment each year.
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In the 104th Congress (1995-1996)

- DeFazio and Colorado Republican Scott McInnis co-authored an amendment to fund alternatives to incineration to dispose of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons.
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In the 103rd Congress (1993-1994)

- A DeFazio amendment to give states that lie within 50-miles of a Superfund site enhanced standing with respect to clean-up operations at the site was included in the House Superfund reauthorization bill, H.R.3800, approved by the Public Works and Transportation Committee on August 8, 1994. The amendment would allow the State of Oregon to more closely monitor and comment upon the clean-up operation underway at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.
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In the 101st Congress (1989-1990)

Author of H.R. 4156, landmark legislation setting national standards for the production and labeling of organically produced foods. H.R. 4156 was adopted as an amendment to the 1990 Farm Bill, H.R.3950. It was the only amendment adopted on the floor of the House despite opposition from the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. The legislation became law on November 28, 1990. (see above for further action in the 106th Congress).